

In the Claims

Below is a list of current claims with status identifiers.

Claim 1
1. (Currently Amended) A method for effecting a connection between a user node on a first network and a destination node on the first network with an audio program provided via the first network, comprising the steps of:

5 playing at the user node the audio program provided via the first network, the audio program having perceivably embedded therein a unique header code;

detecting the unique header code at the user node during the playing of the audio program at the user node;

10 in response to detecting the output of the unique header code during playing of the audio program at the user node, assembling the unique header code into a message packet for transmission to an intermediate node on the first network; and

causing the user node to be interconnected with the destination node without user intervention over the first network such that the destination node can transmit information to the user node.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of causing the destination node to be connected to the user node comprises the steps of:

transmitting information regarding the unique code over the network to an intermediate node on the network;

5 matching the information regarding the unique code transmitted to the intermediate node from the user node with routing information stored in a routing database at the intermediate node, which routing information defines a location on the first network of a plurality of destination nodes, the routing information in the routing database, such that the routing database provides a relationship between the unique header code in the audio program and the routing information to the destination node; and

10 if there is a match, then causing the destination node and the user node to be connected together such that the destination node can transfer information to the user node.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for effecting a connection between a user node on a first network and a destination node on the first network with an audio program provided via the first network, comprising the steps of:

5 playing at the user node the audio program provided via the first network, the audio program having perceptibly embedded therein a unique header code;

detecting the unique header code at the user node during the playing of the audio program at the user node;

10 in response to detecting output of the unique header code during playing of the audio program at the user node, without user intervention assembling the unique header code into a message packet and transmitting information regarding the unique header code over the first network to an intermediate node on the first network;

15 matching the received information regarding the unique header code with routing information stored in a database at the intermediate node, which routing information defines the location on the first network of a plurality of destination nodes, the database having stored therein a correspondence between unique header codes and select ones of the destination nodes; and

if there is a match between the received unique header code and a unique header code stored in the database, causing the destination node and the user node to be connected over the first network with the corresponding routing information, such that the destination node can transmit information to the user node.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein the unique header code is an audible code.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein the unique header code comprises a unique tone.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein the transmitted information regarding the unique header code comprises substantially all of the unique header code.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein the first network comprises a global communication network.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein the step of causing the destination node and the user node to be connected if there is a match comprises:

transmitting back to the user node the routing information determined to be stored in the database and corresponding to the received unique header code as associated with the information regarding the unique header code at the intermediate node;

the user node utilizing the received routing information to effect a connection to the destination node from the user node; and

the destination node, in response to being connected to the user node via the routing information, operable to transfer information to the user node.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 8, wherein the user node further includes user ID information that uniquely identifies the user node, and wherein the database at the intermediate node includes a stored profile which is associated therein with the user ID information of the user node, and wherein the step of transmitting information regarding the unique code over the first network to the intermediate node also includes transmitting the user ID information to the intermediate node and the step of matching the information regarding the unique header code with the routing information in the database further comprises matching the received user ID information of the user node with stored profile information associated with the received user ID information, and wherein the step of transmitting back to the user node the routing information further includes appending to the routing information the stored profile information, wherein the stored profile information is transmitted to the destination node via the user node.

10. (Currently Amended) A system for effecting a connection between a user node on a first network and a destination node on the said first network with an audio program provided via said first network, comprising:

a unique header code perceivably embedded in the said audio program provided via said first network, the said audio program playing at the said user node;

a detector for detecting said unique header code at the said user node during play of the said audio program at the said user node; and

wherein said detector detects the output of said unique code during play of said audio program at the said user node assembles the said unique header code into a message packet for transmission to an intermediate node on said first network and causes the said user node without user invention to be interconnected with the said destination node over the said first network such that the said destination node can transmit information to the said user node.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 10, wherein information regarding said unique header code is transmitted over the said first network to an said intermediate node on the said first network, and said information regarding said unique header code transmitted to said intermediate node from the said user node is matched with routing information stored in a routing database at said intermediate node, which said routing information defines a location on the said first network having a plurality of destination nodes, said routing information in said routing database such that said routing database provides a relationship between said unique header code in the said audio program and said routing information to the said destination node, and if there is a match, then causing the said destination node and the said user node to be connected together such that the said destination node can transfer information to the said user node.

12. (Currently Amended) A system for effecting a connection between a user node on a first network and a destination node on the said first network with an audio program provided via said first network, comprising:

5 a unique header code perceivably embedded within the said audio program provided via said first network, the said audio program playing at the said user node;

a detector for detecting said unique header code at the said user node during play of the said audio program at the said user node;

10 an intermediate node disposed on the said first network for receiving information regarding said unique header code, said information regarding said unique header code being assembled into a message packet and transmitted without user intervention over the said first network to said

intermediate node in response to said detector detecting output of said unique header code during play of the said audio program at the said user node;

routing information stored in a database at said intermediate node, such that said routing information is matched with said received information regarding said unique header code, which said
15 routing information defines a location on the said first network having a plurality of destination nodes, said database having stored therein a correspondence between said unique header codes and select ones of the said destination nodes; and

if there is a match between said received unique header code and a said unique header code stored in said database, causing the said destination node and the said user node to be connected
20 over the said first network with the corresponding said routing information such that the said destination node can transmit information to the said user node.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein said unique header code is an audible code.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein said unique header code comprises a unique tone.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein said transmitted information regarding said unique header code comprises substantially all of said unique header code.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein the said first network comprises a global communication network.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein if there is a match, said routing information determined to be stored in said database and corresponding to said received unique header code as associated with said information regarding said unique header code at said intermediate node is transmitted back to the said user node, the said user node utilizing said received routing information to effect a connection to the said destination node from the said user node, the said destination node in
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response to being connected to ~~the said~~ user node via said routing information is operable to transfer information to ~~the said~~ user node.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 17, wherein ~~the said~~ user node further includes user ID information which uniquely identified ~~the said~~ user node, and wherein said database at said intermediate node includes a stored profile which is associated therein with said user ID information at ~~the said~~ user node, and wherein said user ID information is transmitted to said intermediate node, the received said user ID information of ~~the said~~ user node is matched with stored profile information associated with said received user ID information, and wherein said stored profile information is appended to such routing information such that said stored profile information is transmitted to ~~the said~~ destination node via ~~the said~~ user node.

19. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the unique code is an audible code.

20. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 10, wherein said unique code is an audible code.